

TOWN OF MANSFIELD  
Sustainability Committee  
Minutes of the Meeting  
December 9, 2009

Present: Stafford, Stoddard, Duffy (chair), Britton, Lennon, Miller, Bill Hammon (guest), Hultgren, Walton

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m.

The November 4, 2009 minutes were reviewed and accepted.

Bill Hammon, Mansfield's Director of Maintenance, briefed the committee on the maintenance department's green initiatives for the past five years. These have included phasing out conventional cleaning products with Green Seal certified cleaners, replacing maintenance equipment with energy efficient and water conserving equipment, replacing paper towel holders to accommodate recycled paper, converting to waterless urinals, adding aerators to faucets, relamping Town buildings with 10,000 super T8 bulbs, installing a photovoltaic system on the Community Center roof, putting in a co-generation system which saves the Community Center about \$600 per month and converting the Middle School from electric heat to a natural gas condensing boiler system that is 95% efficient. The savings at the Middle School will be about \$80,000 per year. The \$97,000 stimulus money earmarked for Mansfield will be used to add computer controls for heating in the major Mansfield buildings. Britton stated that there is money now available for commercial solar thermal installations that will probably be exhausted quickly. The Community Center could benefit from it. Hammon stated that the Town is evaluating the elementary schools buildings for either renovations or rebuild. Stoddard stated the Energy Efficiency Fund now has money available for school upgrades - Bill Leahy from the Institute for Sustainable Energy at Eastern Connecticut State University is the contact for this program. With the school PTOs' sponsorship, the Safe Walk to School program would be one way to create a more walkable community by funding sidewalk construction. Duffy suggested that this could be an Energy Education Team project.

Britton reported that the Energy Education Team (formerly Clean Energy Team) has started making energy house visits for the 15 households that are participating in the Mansfield Energy Challenge. Other upcoming projects may include another lighting sale and a presentation on geothermal heating.

The Freedom of Information brochures were handed out to the committee.

Walton was debriefed on Mansfield's Climate Showcase Communities Grant application. Of the 444 applications, 25 were funded. The average score was 73 points out of 100, with Mansfield's grant application receiving 80.5 points. Applications with

scores higher than 90 points were funded. It was a solid proposal with great partnerships, good co-benefits scoring and qualified staffing. More detail could have been given to the timeline, budget narrative and benchmarks. Energy efficiency community outreach projects were the most funded projects. There will be another round of grants in 2010. Hultgren reported that he recently learned that the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) will only fund the design and construction of the transit portion of the Storrs Center Intermodal Center.

Walton reported on the Clean School Bus USA grant. This fall Walton has focused on promoting no-idle school zones by visiting PTO & staff meetings, submitting articles to the school newsletters and websites. Some of the schools are willing to do assemblies on this subject. Duffy suggested that EO Smith could use guidance in this area. Could the Cool-It Team promote this? Stoddard proposed purchasing bumper stickers or dashboard prompts to foster changed behavior. The first round of diesel particulate filter cleanings will begin shortly.

Hultgren reported that Joe Antelmi, the work study intern, has finished his term. He gathered and input the Town's electrical and vehicle usage data. The next student intern will be finishing the work that he started by inputting streetlight usage. The preliminary information was shared with the committee.

Walton reported that at the end of November, the Connecticut Clean Energy Fund approached the Town about taking part in a Department of Energy grant (stimulus money). The Town has agreed to participate in "The Clean Energy Communities Program- Community Energy Savings Project" which, if funded, would assist fourteen Connecticut municipalities with a team of public, private, academic and non-profit organizations. The project would help households set specific, measurable goals for energy efficiency, conservation and clean energy usage, and provide support in meeting these goals. The grant deadline is December 14, 2009 with awards made in the spring.

The next meeting, held in the council chambers, on January 27, 2010 will feature a briefing on the school building project. Miller will be leading a tour of the UConn Football complex January 8, 2009 at 9:30 am. Staff was asked to invite members of the school building committee, conservation commission, town council, energy education team and board of education to join the tour.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:51 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Virginia Walton  
Recycling/Refuse Coordinator

Cc: Lon R. Hultgren, Director of Public Works, Members, file, Town Manager, Town Clerk